

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 88(HSS)
Fiscal Note Number:	2
(S) Publish Date:	4/9/2025

Identifier: SB088-DOA-OPA-2-27-25
 Title: CHILD PLACEMENT; DILIGENT SEARCH
 Sponsor: BJORKMAN
 Requester: (S) Health & Social Services

Department: Department of Administration
 Appropriation: Legal and Advocacy Services
 Allocation: Office of Public Advocacy
 OMB Component Number: 43

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2026 Request	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026						
Personal Services	441.5		441.5	441.5	441.5	441.5	441.5	441.5
Travel	11.0		11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Services	127.5		127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5	127.5
Commodities	10.5		10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	590.5	0.0	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	590.5		590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5
Total	590.5	0.0	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5	590.5

Positions

Full-time	3.0		3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

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Division:	Office of Public Advocacy	Date:	02/27/2025
Approved By:	Michelle Vuille, Division Operations Manager	Date:	02/27/25
Agency:	Department of Administration		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

This bill makes it easier for foster parents seeking to adopt children to r... and in some circumstances elevates placement with foster parents to the s... placements. It also allows foster parents opposing a change in placement to obtain a medical or psychological evaluation for a child in order to prepare for litigation. These changes are likely to increase litigation in Child in Need of Aid cases where children are placed with potential adoptive parents over family members.

Much like the Public Defender Agency, the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) must provide parents with an attorney in Child in Need of Aid cases. Additionally, OPA must also provide a Guardian ad Litem to assess the best interests of the child. OPA anticipates an increase in litigation for both of these core services as a result of this legislation.

Increased litigation and length of time to disposition will increase costs for the Agency. The Agency will need the following additional positions to respond to increased workload:

Add flexibly staffed Attorney (CINA Parent) 1/2/3/4 (budgeted at the highest level at range 24/C, Anchorage)

- Personal Services - \$206.8
- Travel - \$5.5
- Contractual - \$27.7
- Indirect - \$14.8
- Supplies - \$3.5

Add flexibly staffed Guardian ad Litem 1/2 (budgeted at the highest level at range 20/C, Anchorage)

- Personal Services - \$134.1
- Travel - \$5.5
- Contractual - \$27.7
- Indirect - \$14.8
- Supplies - \$3.5

Add flexibly staffed Paralegal 1/2 (budgeted at the highest level at range 16/A, Anchorage)

- Personal Services - \$100.6
- Contractual - \$27.7
- Indirect - \$14.8
- Supplies - \$3.5